



## **AAPOR POLICY ON PUBLIC STATEMENTS**

AAPOR is the leading organization of public opinion and survey research professionals. As such, it is often asked to issue public statements about issues, policies, and developments that impact the work of its members and/or the field at large. The criteria for determining whether to issue a public statement and the process by which this is done were discussed and approved by the Executive Council during its August 2021 meeting.

### **Criteria**

In evaluating requests for statements, AAPOR will consider the following criteria:

1. Does the issue impact AAPOR as a professional association?
2. Does the issue impact the practice or profession of public opinion or survey research?
3. Is AAPOR particularly well positioned to respond to the issue?
4. Does this issue impact data quality or the ability to use data to inform decision-making?
5. Does this issue provide an opportunity to educate about public opinion, survey research, or data quality?
6. Does the issue involve an unambiguous violation of ethical principles or accepted norms of practice in public opinion or survey research?
7. Does the issue relate to possible infringement on scientific freedom with regard to the practice of public opinion or survey research?
8. In our judgment, would members of public opinion or survey research profession expect AAPOR to be involved in the issue?

### **Process**

*Initiation of request.* Requests for AAPOR public statements, whether from individuals, organizations, or industry partners, should be directed to the Executive Director or to a member of the Executive Council. The request must include a one-page summary that comprises:

- A concise description of the issue to which AAPOR is requested to respond, along with the time sensitivity, if any, of the request
- A short explanation of how the proposed statement satisfies one or more of the criteria listed above
- Relevant information about those making the recommendation, including any conflicts of interest

*Review of request.* Requests will be reviewed within a week by the Executive Committee. If the request is declined, a rationale will be provided.

*Crafting of statement.* Should the request be deemed appropriate, and as time allows, those making the request will be asked to submit a first draft of the language to be used. The draft will be reviewed and edited by the Communications Committee Chair and Associate Chair and/or their designees or other individuals who might provide relevant expertise on the issue. The revised draft will be revised as needed, and approved, by the Executive Committee.

*Transmission of statement.* The approved statement will be forwarded to the communications staff for dissemination to the membership.